

April 2009

EARTH DAY 2009

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual U.S. celebration of the environment and a time for Americans to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. The Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy Jakarta has compiled some information related to Earth Day 2009.

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History of Earth Day

The first Earth Day, initiated by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was celebrated on April 22, 1970.

Senator Nelson searched for many years to find a way to focus public attention on the environment. He thought he had found a way to bring the environment into the political limelight when he persuaded President John F. Kennedy to make a five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in 1963. But for many reasons, the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson realized he needed another mechanism for promoting environmental concern nationwide. An article on anti-Vietnam War teach-ins that were organized on college campuses across the nation to protest that War inspired him to do the same for environmental issues. Upon returning to Washington, Nelson raised the funds to get Earth Day started, wrote letters to all 50 governors and the mayors of major cities asking them to issue Earth Day Proclamations, and sent an Earth Day article to all college newspapers and one to Scholastic Magazine, which went to most high schools and grade schools.

It worked. An estimated twenty million people par-

ticipated in educational activities and community events demonstrating their interest in the environment.

In Earth Day ceremonies at the University of Wisconsin, Senator Nelson declared:

"Our goal is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human creatures and for all living creatures. The battle to restore a proper relationship between man and his environment, between man and other living creatures will require a long, sustained, political, moral, ethical, and financial commitment- far beyond any effort made before."

Earth Day was a success. American Heritage Magazine described Earth Day as "one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy" and said "American politics and public policy would never be the same again."

Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the world.

Sources:

<http://web.missouri.edu/~webberd/Nelson.html>

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>

Earth and Environmental Issues in Indonesia

President Yudhoyono's administration has significantly increased Indonesia's global profile on environmental issues, and U.S.-Indonesia cooperation on the environment has grown substantially. Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which include rising sea levels and erosion of coastal areas, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, species extinction, and the spread of vector-borne diseases. At the same time, Indonesia faces challenges in addressing the causes of climate change. Indonesia has the world's second-largest tropical forest and the fastest deforestation rate, making it the third-largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions, behind China and the U.S. In December 2007, Indonesia hosted the 13th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and led efforts to highlight the importance of forests and deforestation in the climate debate.

Also in 2007, the U.S. Government contributed to the start of the Heart of Borneo conservation initiative to conserve a high-biodiversity, trans boundary area that includes parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. These three countries launched the Heart of Borneo initiative. The Governments of Indonesia and the U.S. are currently negotiating a Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) program. Under the program, a portion of the Government of Indonesia's debt to the U.S. Government may be reduced and redirected toward tropical forest conservation in Indonesia. Cooperation is also on-going on the Coral Triangle Initiative, see the "Highlight" on page 2. More on this topic can be found <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm>

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Highlights

PROTECTING THE WORLD'S OCEANS



*Protecting the World's Ocean from
Commercial Fishing and Environ-
mental Damage*

WORLD OCEAN CONFERENCE: Indonesia will be hosting the World Ocean Conference 2009 on May 11-15 in Manado, North Sulawesi. The goal of the conference is to build commitment for sustainable management of marine resources. One of the agenda is the Coral Triangle Initiative Summit.

Source:
<http://www.woc2009.org/home.php>

THE CORAL TRIANGLE: Known as the epicenter of marine life abundance and diversity on the planet - covers all or parts of the exclusive economic zones of Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. In 2007, the six governments of these countries launched a multilateral partnership to conserve the extraordinary marine life in the region. This partnership is called the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)

Source: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/wherewework/coraltriangle/>

Webliography

General Info:

Earth Day: Celebration and Activities in the U.S

<http://www.earthday.gov/>

Energy and Environment: Protecting Our Natural Resources

<http://www.america.gov/global/envIRON.html>

Photo Gallery-Environmental Progress

<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>

A time line of environmental treaties:

http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/env_time/

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:

Obama Administration announces \$3.2 billion for energy efficiency improvements

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/daily.cfm/hp_news_id=160

Renewable Energy: Basics Info

http://www.nrel.gov/learning/re_basics.html

Climate Change and Global Warming:

Climate Change: Science

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/index.html#back>

Effects of Climate Change

<http://www.america.gov/st/eng-english/2009/March/20090302165011lcniirellep0.8701288.html?CP.rss=true>

FAQ on Global Warming

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/globalwarming.html>

General Info about Global Warming

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/GlobalWarming/>

Obama Makes Climate Change a National Priority

<http://www.america.gov/st/eng-english/2009/January/20090127161856lcniirellep9.743899e-02.html?CP.rss=true>

U.S. Climate Policy and Actions

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/policy/index.html>

Environment for Students:

Environment Kids Club

<http://www.epa.gov/kids/>

EPA for Students

<http://www.epa.gov/students/>

High School Environment Center

<http://www.epa.gov/highschool/>

NOAA Education: Specially for Students

<http://www.education.noaa.gov/students.html>

Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta

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